



“Sober, Social, Or Smashed?”

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

March 13, 2016

The Controversy & Caution to Consider

The Concerns About Alcohol

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The Certainty on the Change of Alcoholic Content

- ✓ There Was Intoxicating and Non- Intoxicating Wines in Biblical Times
- ✓ The Wine of Today is Nowhere Close to the Same Alcoholic Content as Today's Wines
- ✓ Without Exception Our Strong Drinks of Today (Mixed Drinks, Bourbon, Vodka, etc.) Were Not Even Possible in Biblical Times

The Certainty in Some & Compromise In Others On Their Stance

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- ✓ We Are to Be Holy
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- ✓ We Are to Be Sober
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- ✓ We Are to Be the Temple of the Holy Spirit
1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19-20
- ✓ We Are to Love the Lord With all of Our Heart, Soul, MIND, & Strength *Matthew 22:37*
- ✓ We Are to Be Salt and Light *Matthew 5:14-16*
- ✓ We Are to Be Different *Romans 12:1-2; 13:12-14*

The Questions to Consider

- ✓ Why Do You Drink? Do You Have to Have It?
- ✓ Is It Necessary?
- ✓ Is It the Best Choice?
- ✓ Is It Habit Forming?
- ✓ Is It Potentially Destructive?
- ✓ Will It Offend Other Christians?
- ✓ Will It Harm My Christian Testimony?
- ✓ Is It Right?
- ✓ Does It Glorify God?

LIVING PURE IN AN IMPURE WORLD

“Sober, Social, Or Smashed”

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

March 13, 2016 A.M. Service

(Some of this material was used from Johnny Hunt's Message on Alcohol @ FBC Woodstock in November of 2015)

Let us jump back to our Theme Verse *1 Thessalonians 4:7* which says, “*God hasn't called us for the purpose of impurity, but to live holy lives.*” Our foundational verse was from *1 Peter 1:14-16* which says, “As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in ignorance, but like the Holy One who has called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior because it is written, ‘**YOU SHALL BE HOLY FOR I AM HOLY**’” I really want to encourage you to go back and listen or watch it on our website because it is the critical starting point that helps us understand each of the next 3 weeks. If we don't have that frame of reference, we will miss the tone and the calling on our lives and that is that we are to be like Jesus and be holy in **ALL** our behavior, not just a few.

The Controversy & Caution to Consider

Since becoming a Christ follower it has been my desire to be an example and a model of a believer to those who are around me and certainly to those who are coming behind me. I have a desire to live convictionally in such a way that I would not allow anything that could damage my witness, my walk, my words or the work that the Lord has called and entrusted to me. I realize that there is a lot of controversy surrounding the subject of the use of alcohol when used responsibly, recreationally, in moderation, etc.

It's my heart's desire to deal with this subject with a balance of compassion and conviction. “I will argue against drinking alcohol as a beverage, and I will stand against the liquor industry with every fiber of my being. However, I know that there are those who disagree with me. They may feel they have scripture to support their moderate drinking. I do not have the right, nor does any other Christian, to look down my nose in a judgmental manner toward someone who is struggling to be

free, or for one reason or another, does not feel the scriptures condemn their practice. In fact, the Scriptures speak strongly against pride and self-righteousness” as well. Johnny Hunt

“Alcohol does not send a person to hell. It is not a top-tier doctrine for our faith and practice as believers. I do not look down on those individuals who have taken an honest, unbiased look at the issues surrounding alcohol, and hold a different view.” Josh Franklin

Many feel that this whole alcohol issue with the church is just a matter of Christian liberty. Galatians 5:13 “For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”

Some evangelicals with the Reformed Community have lifted their glass as a badge of Christian liberty. John MacArthur has strongly denounced this movement. “If everything you know about Christian living came from blogs and websites in the Reformed Community, you might have the impression that beer is the principal symbol of Christian liberty. For some who self-identify as “Young, Restless and Reformed,” it seems beer is a more popular topic for study and discussion than the doctrine of predestination. It’s clear that beer-loving passion is a prominent badge of identity for many in the YRR movement. Cast a disapproving eye and you are likely to be surrounded by restless Reformers denouncing legalism and wanting to debate whether it’s a “sin” to drink wine.” John MacArthur

Proverbs 20:1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and however is intoxicated by it is no wise.”

It will never be said – well Brad Eubank died today because he was playing with snake – guarantee it 100% much less a viper! Yet, why in the world would we be willing to play with something that could bite us and ultimately destroy our lives.

James Merritt, Pastor of Crosspoint Church in Atlanta, GA area said, “It is impossible to be bitten by a snake that you never play with.”

Proverbs 23:29-33 “Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contention? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger over wine, Those who go to taste mixed wine. Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it

sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly; At the last it bites like serpent and stings like a viper. Your eyes will see strange things and your mind will utter perverse things.”

Adrian Rogers said, “Alcohol has brought to this world unparalleled suffering. As a counselor I know that alcohol will cause a man to lie to his mother. It will cause a man to beat his wife. It will cause a man to deprive his children. It will cause an otherwise, virtuous woman to forget her marriage vows. It will turn obedient children into rebuke against parents, against society and against God!”

It is clear that the first drink endangers many into alcoholism. Research tells us that 1 out of 7 students who drink become alcoholics. J. D.

Greear notes about this statistic, “I wouldn’t keep a dog in my house that bit 1 out of every 7 people who entered, and I won’t play around with a drink that has a solid chance of sabotaging and destroying my life or the life of someone I love.” “If 7 people follow my example and drink socially because I do, and one of them becomes an alcoholic, God holds me responsible. Is that a chance I am willing to take with my children, or in those who look up to me?”

Would Christian love really put others in this kind of risk? Every year, 1,700 college students die of over-drinking. That’s 4 jumbo jet liners packed with college students. What would the implications be for an airline industry that had that happen in 1 year? Just to note: Malaysia Airlines had to file bankruptcy after their two airline accidents in recent years.

The dean of students at Duke says that easily 1/3 of all discipline related issues that comes through his office are alcohol related. If you could eliminate 1/3 of the problem on your campus by changing one thing, would you not think solely about doing that?”

Shakespeare said, “Oh God that men would put an enemy in their mouth to steal away their brains.”

The Concerns

- ✓ Alcohol companies spend close to \$2 billion every year advertising in the U. S.
- ✓ Youth exposure rose 38% from 2001 to 2007 and to add to that –

from 2001 to 2009, the average youth exposure to alcohol advertising on TV increase by 71%!! This isn't taking into consideration the internet and any printed material they are exposed to!

- ✓ By the time a typical teenager is 18 years old, he has seen 100,000 beer commercials. David Jernigan Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth at Georgetown University
- ✓ The median age at which children begin drinking is just over 13 years old. So think about that, that means there have to be a considerable number that were below 13!!! (The average age for students to have their first drink, try their first drug or engage in sexual activity is 12!)
- ✓ Over 83% of adults who drink had their 1st drink of alcohol before age 21.
- ✓ 4 out of 10 youth who pick up alcohol before 18 years old become alcoholics. That is 1 in 7.
- ✓ 75% - 90% of high school seniors say they've drunk alcohol sometime in their lives.
- ✓ 4 million Americans under 18 years of age are alcoholics. That is a stunning 26% of underage drinkers compared to only 10% of adults. *National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse*
- ✓ 67% of high school seniors used alcohol within the last month.
- ✓ 38% say they've had 5 or more drinks in a row within the last 2 weeks. 6.1 million students were binge drinking in the past month and 1.7 million did so at least 5+ days in a month!
- ✓ 36% of 4th graders (9 & 10 years old) say they have been pressured by their peers to drink alcohol.
- ✓ 25 % of all alcohol consumed in American is by those under the legal drinking age of 21.
- ✓ Teen drinkers are 7 times more likely to engage in pre-marital sex. (Reason: Relaxes your morals).
- ✓ Youth who drink alcohol at any level are 7 ½ times more likely to use an illicit drug and 50 times more likely to use cocaine than a young person who never drinks alcohol.
- ✓ The #1 killer of teenagers is alcohol and is the #1 abused substance.
- ✓ 2/3 of all school assault and date rapes among teens and college students involves alcohol.

- ✓ Teen alcohol use kills 4,700 people each year - that's more than all illegal drugs combined.
- ✓ On average, two in three people will be involved in a drunk driving crash in their lifetime. Every 53 minutes someone loses their life and every 2 minutes someone is injured in a drunk driving accident. That translates into in 10 to 15 thousand deaths annually!
- ✓ Car crashes are the leading cause of death for teens, and about a quarter of those crashes involve an underage drinking driver.
- ✓ "Today there are more than 40 million problem drinkers in America. Alcohol is the #1 drug problem among teenagers. One in 3 American families suspects that one or more family members having a drinking problem." Dr. Danny Akin
- ✓ The economic costs of alcohol are estimated to have been \$223 billion in 2006. The healthcare cost from alcohol-related problems amounts to more than \$26 billion annually.
- ✓ Alcohol plays a significant role in the top 4 leading causes of death for people age 14-24.
- ✓ You will be arrested if driving a car with BAC (Blood Alcohol Concentration) of .08% or higher, DUI. .01-.05%:
Effect: Some to great loss of judgment and coordination, thinking dulled, changes in mood and behavior.
- ✓ If someone who is 129 lbs. or less one 12 oz. beer, one 4 oz. wine, one 1/4 oz. of 80 proof liquor will have .05%-.08% BAC.
Effect: walking, speech and hand movements clumsy. Blurred, split or tunnel vision may occur.
- ✓ The chance of an accident is greatly increased by up to 300% or more.

The Command All Agree Upon – Being Drunk is Wrong

Ephesians 5:18; I Timothy 3:3; Galatians 5:19; Isaiah 5:11; 28:7-8

There is little if any controversy about this at all that we are never to be drunk. Period. No exception. The Word of God makes it abundantly clear. So we will not spend a lot of time here.

The Concept That Has Caused Confusion – Social Drinking or Moderation is acceptable and even some say encouraged by Scripture.

Are there places in the Bible where drinking wine is commended and the answer is yes, without question but that begs another question which will dive into in a moment. What kind of wine are we talking about and what was the alcoholic content.

Let me say that I have done extensive reading on this and you can find authors who take both sides. However, as we will see in a moment I believe that the principle of Scripture on this issue is abundantly clear and the oft used Scripture of John 2 that Jesus was the bartender is absolutely ridiculous!

The Commendation By Our Culture Should Give Us Caution

This is where the first warning sign comes to me. If our culture celebrates something especially to the point of excess and that everyone is doing it and that is really the only way to enjoy life and have a good time then I am or should be awakened to that fact!

If our world is running headlong into something, and celebrates and encourages everyone to do the same thing and in fact stats tell us that well over 50% of our culture are regular drinkers, then shouldn't we stop and at least ask ourselves – is this part of the broad road – wide road? I would say absolutely yes!

I have asked people why do you drink? It relaxes me, allows me to enjoy life a little more, helps me have a good or better time, and then I love the way that it tastes. All things I want to address a little later. There is nothing wrong with it at all I hear some Christians say and I would kindly object and say I would completely disagree.

Our Culture says – we need to teach them how to drink when they are young – Europeans handle it so much better and their kids know how to handle it – those countries drink almost double what any other countries drink – really? Statistics don't bear that out at all! 10-14% of total Deaths are related to alcohol while only 2-5% of American total deaths are related to alcohol

The Certainty on the Change of Alcoholic Content

- ✓ **There Was Intoxicating and Non- Intoxicating Wines in Biblical Times.** This has been shown in research by scholars.
- ✓ **The Wine of Today is Nowhere Close to the Same Alcoholic**

Content as Today's Wines. You will find some disagreements about to what levels and how much alcohol was in it and how diluted it was but from what little I've read on both sides, most all agree that it we aren't comparing apples to apples.

Yale University's Study on alcoholism - it was revealed that the normal process of fermentation of "fruit of the vine" Does not produce a drink with sufficient alcohol content to bring on drunkenness. There must be a mechanical interference with the normal process, such as the addition of pure alcohol or other mechanical processes of distillation or it will not produce the kind of wine that is common today.

The Hebrews would have referred to our wine and beer as "strong drink". Jesus is not nor was he ever in the liquor business.

A New Testament scholar named Robert Stein researched the wine drinking of the ancient world in both Jewish sources and the Bible. He made a fascinating discovery about the wine of Bible days, as compared to the wine of today. The wine of biblical times was not like the wine that exists today. Stein's research uncovered the fact that wine in the days of Jesus, for example, was actually wine mixed with water. On average, it would be three or four parts of water mixed with one part of wine. In other words, what the Bible calls wine was basically purified water. It may have some alcohol but the content was so very low.

He points out that water in the ancient world was unsafe to drink. It could be made safe by boiling it, filtering it, or the safest way was to put wine into the water to kill the germs.

The problem today is the alcohol content. By the way, concentrated alcohol was only known in the Middle Ages when the Arabs invented distillation, so what is now called liquor or strong drink, and the 20% fortified wines of today were unknown in Bible times.

Dr. Stein noted that one would have to drink 22 glasses of wine in order to consume the alcohol in only 2 martinis today.

In summary, though fermented wine was drunk in Bible times, and though the Bible approves of wine-drinking, one needs to remember that the alcohol content of ancient wine was much less than that of

wine today. What is consumed today is not the wine of the New Testament. To equate the two would be like comparing apples and oranges.

Dr. Norman Geisler concluded, “Therefore, Christians ought not drink wine, beer, or other alcoholic beverages, for they are actually ‘strong drink,’ and are forbidden in Scripture. Even ancient pagans did not drink what some Christians drink today.”

Today’s alcoholic beverages should be avoided because of Scriptures universal condemnation of “strong wine.”

✓ **Without Exception Our Strong Drinks of Today (Mixed Drinks, Bourbon, Vodka, etc.) Were Not Even Possible in Biblical Times**

THOUGHTS FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. When the Bible uses “wine,” it may be fermented, unfermented or diluted with water.
2. The process of today’s distilled liquor (adding alcohol to beverages) had not been invented yet, so we cannot compare the Bible’s wine to today’s wine or alcohol beverages, where alcohol is added.
3. In truth, much of what our culture calls “wine,” the Bible would call “strong drink.”
4. Today’s alcoholic beverages should be avoided because of Scripture’s universal condemnation of “strong wine.”
5. **In John 2** – would Jesus’ first miracle which He said was to manifest His glory and His disciples believed in Him was to help people to get drunk? There is absolutely no way!

Dr. Danny Akin SEBTS President said, “In His time Jesus drank wine, and I am sure I would have had I lived in the 1st Century. However there is no evidence that He ever partook of “strong drink.”

“It is possible to become intoxicated from wine mixed with three parts water, but one’s drinking would probably affect the bladder long before it affected the mind.” It should also be noted that children would drink this diluted mixture of water and wine. It seems clear that there is no one-to-one correspondence with 1st Century wine and 21st Century distilled liquor. Concerning the later I believe the Lord Jesus would have no part.”

The Certainty in Some & Compromise In Others On Their Stance Temperance in the 19th Century that led to the Prohibitionist

Movement and laws in the early part of the 20th century that outlawed alcohol of which most if not all Protestant denominations agreed with.

Southern Baptist Vs Other Denominations – Their Change – our Methodist and Presbyterian brothers changed their stance after the law was changed, Southern Baptist did not.

Just to note: Former U.S. Health & Welfare Secretary Joseph Califano wrote, “During prohibition, admissions to mental health institutions for alcoholic psychosis dropped by 60%; arrests for drunk and disorderly conduct went down 50%; welfare agencies reported significant decline in cases due to alcohol related family problems and the death rate from impure alcohol did not rise. Nor did Prohibition generate a crime wave. Homicide increased at a higher rate between 1900 and 1910 than during Prohibition & organized crime was well established in the cities before 1920.

2006 SBC Resolution (Most Recent One) plus 40 other ones in our history. We have been crystal clear in our position

The Challenges to Consider

✓ **We Can Cause Others To Stumble** **Romans 14:13, 19, 21**

You say, “I will never abuse alcohol. I will never become an alcoholic.” **One out of every ten that start to drink will become an alcoholic.** How do you know that your witness and influence wouldn’t encourage someone to take that first drink or you during would give them permission – do you want that on your hands? I don’t! **ILLUS: Belly up to bar with me – ok with that?**

✓ **The Carelessness of A Double Standard** **Matthew 18:5-6**

The Double Meaning – You don’t drink but I can Drink but don’t drive – Children and Students don’t get this!

Vance Havner used to say; “I’m tired of hearing alcoholism called a disease. It’s the only disease we’re spending millions of dollars each year to spread.”

Adrian Rogers, “What our generation does in moderation the next does in excess.” **ILLUS: Former student and conversation on**

Alcohol – Z.M.

Our Clear Call & Conviction - I think it's a principle issue

✓ **We Are to Be Holy**

1 Thessalonians 4:7; 1 Peter 1:15-16

✓ **We Are to Be Sober**

1 Thessalonians 5:5-8; 1 Peter 1:13; 4:7; 5:8; 2 Timothy 4:2-5

These come from 5 different Greek Words – the 1st is the Greek word *nepho* to be free from the influence of intoxicating drinks or to abstain from wine. The other 4 words have a wider application but all of them still have a direct bearing on the influence of wine upon the mind of a believer.

✓ **We Are to Be the Temple of the Holy Spirit**

1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19-20

✓ **We Are to Love the Lord With all of Our Heart, Soul, MIND, & Strength**

Matthew 22:37

✓ **We Are to Be Salt and Light**

Matthew 5:14-16

✓ **We Are to Be Different**

Romans 12:1-2; 13:12-14

The Questions to Consider *See McArthur for questions*

Billy Sunday once called liquor, “the devil in liquid form.” He said, “wine is a deceiver (Proverbs 20:1); the devil is “the great deceiver.”

Former President George W. Bush quit drinking after his wife Laura asked him a soul-scorching question, “Can you remember the last day you didn’t have a drink?” He asked himself this question, “Could I continue to grow closer to the Almighty or was alcohol becoming my god?”

During a considerable portion of Charles Spurgeon’s life he used alcoholic beverages. In later years his convictions changed. His 2 sons were against alcohol, as were several students in his college. The Lord seemed to use those and the Holy Spirit and in 1871 he became a Total Abstainer. In 1882 Spurgeon would loudly declare, “Next to the preaching the Gospel, the most necessary thing to be done in England is to induce our people to become abstainers.”

✓ **Why Do You Drink? Do You Have to Have It?**

✓ **Is It Necessary?**

- ✓ **Is It the Best Choice?**
- ✓ **Is It Habit Forming?**
- ✓ **Is It Potentially Destructive?**
- ✓ **Will It Offend Other Christians?**
- ✓ **Will It Harm My Christian Testimony?**
- ✓ **Is It Right?**

Even if Scripture were silent on this issue, because of its impact on today's society, I would publicly condemn its use because of what I have witnessed in my lifetime and my 27 years of ministry!

So I believe in abstaining from alcohol in every form every time. I've never seen it bring value to anyone's life, never seen it had deep abiding joy to someone's life that they couldn't find in Jesus, never seen it really do any good but I have seen it do incredible and irreparable harm!

Let me share with you the night that it all became crystal clear to me!

ILLUS: DWI Waco Car Crash from 1992 – and for that matter many others that I have witnessed

Resources to Read Further

- ✓ *Sober Saints* By Keith Malcomson
- ✓ *Christians and Alcohol A Scriptural Case for Abstinence*
By Randy Jaeggli
- ✓ *Alcohol Today: Abstinence In An Age of Indulgence* By Peter Lumpkins
- ✓ *Ancient Wine & the Bible: The Case For Abstinence*
By David Brumbelow
- ✓ *Ephesians* By John McArthur Chapter 18 – Ephesians 5:18
- ✓ *Message by Johnny Hunt* – Pastor of First Baptist Woodstock, GA
www.fbcw.org

• Alcohol Facts and Statistics

Print version

Alcohol Use in the United States:

- **Prevalence of Drinking:** In 2013, 86.8 percent of people ages 18 or older reported that they drank alcohol at some point in their lifetime; 70.7 percent reported that they drank in the past year; 56.4 percent reported that they drank in the past month.¹
- **Prevalence of Binge Drinking and Heavy Drinking:** In 2013, 24.6 percent of people ages 18 or older reported that they engaged in binge drinking in the past month; 6.8 percent reported that they engaged in heavy drinking in the past month.²

Alcohol Use Disorders (AUDs) in the United States:

- **Adults (ages 18+):** 16.6 million adults ages 18 and older³ (7.0 percent of this age group⁴) had an AUD in 2013. This includes 10.8 million men³ (9.4 percent of men in this age group⁴) and 5.8 million women³ (4.7 percent of women in this age group⁴).
- About 1.3 million adults received treatment for an AUD at a specialized facility in 2013 (7.8 percent of adults who needed treatment). This included 904,000 million men (8.0 percent of men in need) and 444,000 women (7.3 percent of women who needed treatment).⁵
- **Youth (ages 12–17):** In 2013 an estimated 697,000 adolescents ages 12–17⁶ (2.8 percent of this age group⁷) had an AUD. This number includes 385,000 females⁶ (3.2 percent of females in this age group⁷) and 311,000 males⁶ (2.5 percent of males in this age group⁷).
- An estimated 73,000 adolescents (44,000 males and 29,000 females) received treatment for an alcohol problem in a specialized facility in 2013.⁸

Alcohol-Related Deaths:

- Nearly 88,000⁹ people (approximately 62,000 men and 26,000 women¹⁰) die from alcohol-related causes annually, making it the third leading preventable cause of death in the United States.⁹
- In 2013, alcohol-impaired driving fatalities accounted for 10,076 deaths (30.8 percent of overall driving fatalities).¹¹

Economic Burden:

- In 2006, alcohol misuse problems cost the United States \$223.5 billion.¹²
- Almost three-quarters of the total cost of alcohol misuse is related to binge drinking.¹²

Global Burden:

- In 2012, 3.3 million deaths, or 5.9 percent of all global deaths (7.6 percent for men and 4.0 percent for women), were attributable to alcohol consumption.¹³
- Alcohol contributes to over 200 diseases and injury-related health conditions, most notably alcohol dependence, liver cirrhosis, cancers, and injuries.¹⁴ In 2012, 5.1 percent of the burden of disease and injury worldwide (139 million disability-adjusted life years) was attributable to alcohol consumption.¹³
- Globally, alcohol misuse is the fifth leading risk factor for premature death and disability; among people between the ages of 15 and 49, it is the first.¹⁵

Family Consequences:

- More than 10 percent of U.S. children live with a parent with alcohol problems, according to a 2012 study.¹⁶

Underage Drinking:

- **Prevalence of Underage Alcohol Use:**
 - *Prevalence of Drinking:* According to the 2013 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), 35.1 percent of 15-year-olds report that they have had at least 1 drink in their lives.¹⁷ About 8.7 million people ages 12–20 (22.7 percent of this age group) reported drinking alcohol in the past month (23 percent of males and 22.5 percent of females).¹⁸
 - *Prevalence of Binge Drinking:* According to the 2013 NSDUH, approximately 5.4 million people (about 14.2 percent) ages 12–20 were binge drinkers (15.8 percent of males and 12.4 percent of females).¹⁸
 - *Prevalence of Heavy Drinking:* According to the 2013 NSDUH, approximately 1.4 million people (about 3.7 percent) ages 12–20 were heavy drinkers (4.6 percent of males and 2.7 percent of females).¹⁸
- **Consequences of Underage Alcohol Use:**
 - Research indicates that alcohol use during the teenage years could interfere with normal adolescent brain development and increase the risk of developing an AUD. In addition, underage drinking contributes to a range of acute consequences, including injuries, sexual assaults, and even deaths—including those from car crashes.¹⁹

Alcohol and College Students:

- **Prevalence of Alcohol Use:**
 - *Prevalence of Drinking:* In 2013, 59.4 percent of full-time college students ages 18–22 drank alcohol in the past month compared with 50.6 percent of other persons of the same age.²⁰
 - *Prevalence of Binge Drinking:* In 2013, 39 percent of college students ages 18–22 engaged in binge drinking (5 or more drinks on an occasion) in the past month compared with 33.4 percent of other persons of the same age.²¹
 - *Prevalence of Heavy Drinking:* In 2013, 12.7 percent of college students ages 18–22 engaged in heavy drinking (5 or more drinks on an occasion on 5 or more occasions per month) in the past month compared with 9.3 percent of other persons of the same age.²²
- **Consequences—Researchers estimate that each year:**
 - 1,825 college students between the ages of 18 and 24 die from alcohol-related unintentional injuries, including motor-vehicle crashes.²³
 - 696,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are assaulted by another student who has been drinking.²⁴
 - 97,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 report experiencing alcohol-related sexual assault or date rape.²⁴
 - Roughly 20 percent of college students meet the criteria for an AUD.²⁵
 - About 1 in 4 college students report academic consequences from drinking, including missing class, falling behind in class, doing poorly on exams or papers, and receiving lower grades overall.²⁶

Alcohol and Pregnancy:

- The prevalence of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) in the United States was estimated by the Institute of Medicine in 1996 to be between 0.5 and 3.0 cases per 1,000.²⁷
- More recent reports from specific U.S. sites report the prevalence of FAS to be 2 to 7 cases per 1,000,²⁷ and the prevalence of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) to be as high as 20 to 50 cases per 1,000.²⁸

Alcohol and the Human Body:

- In 2013, of the 71,713 total liver disease deaths among individuals aged 12 and older, 46.4 percent involved alcohol. Among males, 48.9 percent of the 46,240 liver disease deaths involved alcohol. Among females, 42.7 percent of the 25,433 liver disease deaths involved alcohol.²⁹
- Among all cirrhosis deaths in 2011, 48.0 percent were alcohol related. The proportion of alcohol-related cirrhosis was highest (72.7 percent) among decedents ages 25–34, followed by decedents aged 35–44, at 70.3 percent.³⁰
- In 2009, alcohol-related liver disease was the primary cause of almost 1 in 3 liver transplants in the United States.³¹
- Drinking alcohol increases the risk of cancers of the mouth, esophagus, pharynx, larynx, liver, and breast.³²

Underage Drinking

Alcohol is the most commonly used and abused drug among youth in the United States.¹

- Excessive drinking is responsible for more than 4,300 deaths among underage youth each year, and cost the U.S. \$24 billion in economic costs in 2010.^{2,3}
- Although drinking by persons under the age of 21 is illegal, people aged 12 to 20 years drink 11% of all alcohol consumed in the United States.⁴ More than 90% of this alcohol is consumed in the form of binge drinks.⁴
- On average, underage drinkers consume more drinks per drinking occasion than adult drinkers.⁵
- In 2010, there were approximately 189,000 emergency rooms visits by persons under age 21 for injuries and other conditions linked to alcohol.⁶

Drinking Levels among Youth

The 2013 [Youth Risk Behavior Survey](#)⁷ found that among high school students, during the past 30 days

- 35% drank some amount of alcohol.

- 21% binge drank.
- 10% drove after drinking alcohol.
- 22% rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol.

Other national surveys

- In 2013, the [National Survey on Drug Use and Health](#) reported that 23% of youth aged 12 to 20 years drink alcohol and 14% reported binge drinking in the past 30 days.⁸
- In 2013, the [Monitoring the Future Survey](#) reported that 28% of 8th graders and 68% of 12th graders had tried alcohol, and 10% of 8th graders and 39% of 12th graders drank during the past month.⁹

Consequences of Underage Drinking

Youth who drink alcohol ^{1,5,10} are more likely to experience

- School problems, such as higher absence and poor or failing grades.
- Social problems, such as fighting and lack of participation in youth activities.
- Legal problems, such as arrest for driving or physically hurting someone while drunk.
- Physical problems, such as hangovers or illnesses.
- Unwanted, unplanned, and unprotected sexual activity.
- Disruption of normal growth and sexual development.
- Physical and sexual assault.
- Higher risk for suicide and homicide.
- Alcohol-related car crashes and other unintentional injuries, such as burns, falls, and drowning.
- Memory problems.
- Abuse of other drugs.
- Changes in brain development that may have life-long effects.
- Death from alcohol poisoning.

In general, the risk of youth experiencing these problems is greater for those who binge drink than for those who do not binge drink.¹⁰

Youth who start drinking before age 15 years are six times more likely to develop [alcohol dependence or abuse](http://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/faqs.htm#alcoholismAbuse)(<http://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/faqs.htm#alcoholismAbuse>) later in life than those who begin drinking at or after age 21 years.⁸

Underage drinking is widespread

- According to the 2013 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), 35.1 percent of 15-year-olds report that they have had at least 1 drink in their lives.
- About 8.7 million people ages 12–20 (22.7 percent of this age group) reported drinking alcohol in the past month (23 percent of males and 22.5 percent of females).

Young people drink a lot

- According to the 2013 NSDUH, approximately 5.4 million people (about 14.2 percent) ages 12–20 engaged in [binge drinking](#) (15.8 percent of males and 12.4 percent of females).
- According to the 2013 NSDUH, approximately 1.4 million people (about 3.7 percent) ages 12–20 engaged in [heavy drinking](#) (4.6 percent of males and 2.7 percent of females).

Underage drinking risks include:

- **Death** – 4,358 people under age 21 die each year from alcohol-related car crashes, homicides, suicides, alcohol poisoning, and other injuries such as falls, burns, and drowning.
- **Serious injuries** – More than 190,000 people under age 21 visited an emergency room for alcohol-related injuries in 2008 alone.
- **Impaired judgment** – Drinking can cause kids to make poor decisions, which can then result in risky behavior like drinking and driving, sexual activity, or violence.
- **Increased risk for physical and sexual assault** – Youth who drink are more likely to carry out or be the victim of a physical or sexual assault.
- **Brain development problems** – Research shows that brain development continues well into a person's twenties. Alcohol can affect this development, and contribute to a range of problems.

Here's how you can recognize the signs of underage drinking:

Anyone who interacts with young people should pay close attention to the warning signs that may indicate underage drinking. Some of these warning signs include:

- Academic and/or behavioral problems in school
- Changing groups of friends
- Less interest in activities and/or appearance
- Finding alcohol among a young person's things or smelling alcohol on their breath
- Slurred speech
- Coordination problems
- Memory and/or concentration problems

1. 88,000 deaths are annually attributed to excessive alcohol use. ([CDC](#))
2. Every day, almost 30 people in the United States die in motor vehicle crashes that involve an alcohol-impaired driver. This amounts to one death every 51 minutes. ([CDC](#))
3. Long-term alcohol use can cause serious health complications affecting every organ in your body, including your brain. Additionally, it can damage your emotional stability, finances, career, impact your family, friends and the people you work with. ([NCAAD](#))
4. Women who binge drink are more likely to have unprotected sex and multiple sex partners. These activities increase the risks of unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. ([CDC](#))

5. 100,000 persons die each year from alcohol-related causes: drinking and driving crashes, other accidents, falls, fires, alcohol-related homicides and suicides. ([NCAAD](#))
6. Excessive alcohol consumption increases aggression and, as a result, can increase the risk of physically assaulting another person. ([CDC](#))
7. Of the 3.9 million Americans who received treatment for a substance abuse problem in 2005, 2.5 million of them were treated for alcohol use. ([Drug Free World](#))
8. Approximately 17 percent of men and 8 percent of women will be dependent on alcohol in their lifetime. ([NIAAA](#))
9. Because of the astounding 80,000 deaths that are related to alcohol abuse every year, alcohol abuse is the third highest cause of death in the U.S. ([CDC](#))
10. 696,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are assaulted by another student who has been drinking. ([NIAAA](#))
11. Approximately 7,000 children in the U.S. under the age of 16 take their first drink every day, which is a major problem because those who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcoholism than those who begin at age 21. ([Rehabs.com](#))
12. Excessive alcohol consumption cost the United States \$223.5 billion in 2006. This amounts to about \$1.90 per drink, or about \$746 per person. ([CDC](#))
13. Alcoholism includes the following four symptoms: craving, loss of control, physical dependence, and tolerance. ([NCADD](#))
14. Teen alcohol use kills 4,700 people each year -- that's more than all illegal drugs combined. ([MADD](#))
15. 5.3 million adults -- 36 percent of those under correctional supervision at the time -- were drinking at the time of their conviction offense. ([NCADD](#))

The 3 leading causes of death for 15 to 24-year-olds are automobile crashes, homicides and suicides – alcohol is a leading factor in all 3.

Among underage drinkers, 40% usually obtained alcohol by someone giving it to them. Of those:

- 35% received it from an unrelated person over the age of 21.
- 53% received it from family and friends.
- 1 in 6 teens binge drink (excessively consuming alcohol in a short time period).
- Only 1 in 100 parents believe his or her child binge drinks.